

BEPS LAC/RSD-EHR
Basic Education and Policy Support (BEPS) Activity
Annual Report
April 1, 2002 – March 30, 2003

Contractor: Creative Associates International, Inc.
Contract No. HNE-I-00-00-00038-00
Task Order No. 08
Reporting Period: April 1, 2002 – May 30, 2003*

This Basic Education and Policy Support (BEPS), LAC/RSD-HER Activity annual report includes Tasks, Accomplishments, Progress, Required Deliverables, Challenges and Planned Response. For further information, please see the corresponding comprehensive BEPS annual report submitted under separate cover.

1. Mission, Purpose, Tasks to be Accomplished:

The mission of the LAC/RSD-EHR activity is to provide “Improved and Expanded Basic Education, Especially for Girls, Women and Other Underserved Populations”. The overall purpose of this activity is to strengthen the quality, vitality and effectiveness of educational systems by assisting USAID missions, regional bureaus, and developing newly independent and crisis countries to examine their educational policies and programs and to implement more relevant policies and activities.

Under BEPS, CAII and its partners – CARE, The George Washington University and Groundwork – will perform seven (7) types of tasks:

- A. Undertake education policy analyses, activity and strategy assessments and program evaluations and assessments;
- B. Prepare and disseminate technical reports related to regional and country education trends, education initiatives, success stories and successful innovative programs, and special topics (Summit Education Initiative, secondary education, early childhood development, educational technology, national standards and assessments, education finance, etc.);
- C. Coordinate and provide logistical support for two components related to the Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training (CETT) program, including supporting the effort to generate private sector and foundation support for CETT and supporting the CETT Advisory Committee; support the educational policy agenda shared by the LAC Bureau and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through educational support activities;
- D. Provide technical assistance to selected Central American and Caribbean countries in support of the LAC Regional Education Program (i.e. Regional Indicators Project, PREAL, etc.) and Mission bilateral programs;
- E. Assist LAC missions in the development of bilateral education strategies, result frameworks, pilot or demonstration design, applied research, and policy analyses;

- F. Coordinate and provide logistical support for a regional workshop on educational policy reform for the LAC Bureau and its Missions; and
- G. Provide off-site support to LAC/RSD-EHR in the research, writing and dissemination of various documents that may include briefings, talking points, speeches, and other reports, as necessary.

Overview of Activities and Deliverables

The majority of this task order has focused on final assessments and design of the Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training (CETT) Presidential Initiative. Each of the three CETTs went through various stages in the design process, with final activities for the year moving into direct technical assistance. Simultaneously, CAII convened several Consultative Committee meetings, put forth tremendous effort in planning a Presidential Event around the CETTs, and providing technical assistance for both the Dominican Republic and Peru missions.

Regional and Country Assessments and Design of Sub-regional CETT programs, initial technical assistance and Region wide CETT support activities:

Andes – The Phase I Assessment concentrated on evaluating country capacities in Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia, as well as the capacities of the institutions that could be potential hosts for the CETT Andes identifying Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (Peru) as the lead of the consortium with Universidad Andina (Ecuador) and Universidad NUR (Bolivia). CAII provided Technical Assistance to the newly formed Andean CETT in planning, reviewing and making recommendations to their conceptual framework, work plan, and budget. Also assisted in planning communications and liaison activities among CETT/Andean institutional members, USAID/Peru, & the LAC Bureau. Provided assistance in planning and conducting the CETT meeting for the Andean Region, held in Lima, Peru from February 15-22, 2003, and in completing the follow up activities for that meeting.

Caribbean - CAII consultants finalized the CETT concept paper and draft MOU for initiation of the Caribbean CETT. Submitted final report of the Caribbean Team Assessment and distributed reference publications to the English-speaking coordinating CETT institutions.

Central America –

The Phase II Assessment of institutional capacity reconfirmed the conclusion reached by the Phase I Assessment that no single institution in the region has the capability for hosting the CETT, and reaffirmed the consortium model proposed by the Phase I team. Two members from each Central American country were invited to a debrief Central America meeting, (including Mexico due to potential contributions and the Dominican Republic due to Spanish language). CAII provided technical assistance to the newly established Central American CETT by reviewing the conceptual framework, work plan, and budget and provided feedback; planning communications and liaison activities

among CETT/CA, institutional members, USAID/Honduras, & the LAC Bureau and technical assistance in planning and conducting the CETT/CA meeting in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, February 5-8, 2003.

Consultative Committee – The BEPS/LAC Task Order organized and facilitated the third meeting of the Consultative Committee (held in Miami February 4-6) at the offices of the Cisneros Group. The main topics of the meeting were the CETT Central America and the private sector participation in the CETTs. The Consultative Committee members, representatives from the Private Sector (Cisneros, Verizon, Microsoft), the Department of Education, the State Department, USAID and CAII attended. An ad hoc report with meeting conclusions was distributed to all after incorporating USAID's comments and suggestions.

Presidential Event – CAII spent the first quarter prioritizing event planning for the majority of this time period, which was cancelled two days before the event was scheduled to take place due to the President's unavailability. President George W. Bush had invited representatives from the Ministries of Education, Ambassadors to the OAS, private sector representatives, teachers from the three sub-regions and the consultative Committee to meet with the President on the progress of the Centers' of Excellence for Teacher Training (a Presidential Initiative).

Private Sector - The brochure for the private sector solicitation was updated, in order to better inform the actual state of the CETT program to potential contributors. A "private sector strategy talking points" was drafted and submitted to USAID. The team also developed a document with Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) from the private sector regarding the project and the operational aspects of the CETT and collaborated with IRA and INMED for future participation and support for the CETTs both in the area of reading specialization and public sector support for the Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training.

CETT Regional Activities - Members of the CETTs attended the Seventh Annual Latin American Conference on Reading and Writing Development in Puebla, Mexico, sponsored by the International Reading Association (IRA). Planning began for a Latin American and the Caribbean CETT Networking Conference, a week-long conference to be held in Austin, Texas April 28 – May 2, 2003. Creative worked with USAID in drafting the agenda, conference design, and outcomes; coordinated support from White House representatives, the National Reading Panel, and the National Institute for Literacy and arranged travel, per diem, and lodging for the 85 participants. CAII worked closely with CETT members and USAID finalizing several revisions of the CETT information packet, and submitted to USAID in final form.

Deliverables
April 1, 2002 – March 30, 2003

Task Description	Deliverable	Date Submitted
<i>Undertake education policy analyses, activity and strategy assessments and program evaluations and assessments</i>		
<i>Prepare and disseminate technical reports related to regional and country education trends, education initiatives, success stories and successful innovative programs, and special topics (Summit Education Initiative, secondary education, early childhood development, educational technology, national standards and assessments, education finance, etc.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional Overview – The Andes 2. Estructura Organizativa del CETT 3. Five country profiles 4. Organizational Structure 5. CETT Info Packet 	<p>June 24, 2002 August 2002 July 2002 July 2002 November 2002</p>
<i>Coordinate and provide logistical support for two components related to the Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training (CETT) program, including supporting the effort to generate private sector and foundation support for CETT and supporting the CETT Advisory Committee; support the educational policy agenda shared by the LAC Bureau and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through educational support activities;</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assessment of Institutional Capacity and Educational Needs in Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador 2. Assessment of Teacher Training and Reading Instruction Needs and Capacities in the Caribbean 3. Assessment of Teacher Training and Reading Instruction Needs and Capacities in Central America 4. Central America Assessment List of Contacts 5. Central America and DR – Summary of Agreements and Resolutions 6. CETT Education Meeting in San Pedro Sula, Honduras September 8-14, 2002 7. Costa Rica Country Profile 8. Design Group Meeting Report Central American CETT 9. Design Group Meeting Report Central American CETT Miami FL 10. Design Group Meeting Report Central American CETT 11. Lista de Participantes al CETT de Centro America 12. Miami Meetings CETT Program Objectives 13. Propuesta Reunion Tegucigalpa 14. Programa CETT Para Centro America y Republica Dominicana-Reunion Inicial Miami Florida 6-7 Diciembre 2002 15. Summary of Regional Institutions Contacted to organize CETTs 	<p>April 2002 May 2002 April 2002 April 2002 June 26-27, 2002 Sept. 21, 2002 April 2002 June 6, 2002 April 18, 2002 June 26-27, 2002 June 2002 May 29, 2002 July 2002 Dec. 2002 May 2002</p>
<i>Provide technical assistance to selected Central American and Caribbean countries in support of the LAC Regional Education Program (i.e. Regional Indicators Project,</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. USAID Parameters for the CETT programs in Central America 2. Caribbean Center of Excellence for Teacher Training Program 	<p>July 2002 May 2002</p>

<p><i>PREAL, etc.) and Mission bilateral programs</i></p>	<p>Description</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Central American and DR Conceptual Frameworks 4. Comentarios Al Marco Conceptual 5. CETT Centro Americana y Republica Dominicana – Marco Conceptual 6. Pontifica Universidad Catolica Madre y Maestra – Propuesta de Marco Teorico 7. Assessment of Institutional Capacity & Recommendations for Management Structure for CETT in Central America 8. Debriefing of the Puebla Conference – October 31, 2002 9. Centro Andino – Logros de Aprendizaje 10. Talking Points Jamaica – Private Partnerships and INMED 11. Marco Teorico y Metodologico del Aprendizaje del la Lectura y Escritura de Ninos de 5 a 8 anos 12. Cronograma 2003 - Central American/DR 	<p>August 2002</p> <p>July 12, 2002</p> <p>July 2002</p> <p>July 2002</p> <p>October 2002</p> <p>Oct. 31, 2002</p> <p>October 2002</p> <p>January</p> <p>February</p> <p>January</p>
<p><i>Assist LAC missions in the development of bilateral education strategies, result frameworks, pilot or demonstration design, applied research, and policy analyses</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dominican Republic: Monitoring and Evaluation system for Education Equality – Activities, Timeline and Cost Analysis 2. Education Decentralization in Peru Revisited – Final Report 	<p>Sept. 2002</p> <p>Nov. 2002</p>
<p><i>Coordinate and provide logistical support for a regional workshop on educational policy reform for the LAC Bureau and its Missions</i></p>		
<p><i>Provide off-site support to LAC/RSD-EHR in the research, writing and dissemination of various documents that may include briefings, talking points, speeches, and other reports, as necessary.</i></p>		